



You Were Right About 1844!

and

**The New 'Good News' About
The 'Great Disappointment'**

by Don Dainty

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You Were Right About 1844! and The New 'Good News' About The 'Great Disappointment'

The Universal Expectation

In the early and middle 1800s there was a tremendous, world-wide surge of religious enthusiasm, ecstasy and expectancy associated with the realization that many of the signs traditionally associated with the Return of the Christ were evidently fulfilled! The historical evidence for this fervour is extensive and easily documented.

Focus On The Year 1844 AD

Several important matters associated with the 'Return' had indeed become evident by then. Around the globe, clergy and laity alike had made interpretations of several Biblical time prophecies which centered around the year 1844. Included among these were, for example: the Seven-Times Trial of the Jews (2520 years); the period preceding the 'Cleansing of the Sanctuary' (2300 years); and the 'Resurrection of the two Witnesses' (1260 years).

Further, while it was generally unknown that the Jews were enabled to begin the process of their return from the four corners of the earth by the signing of the 'Edict of Toleration' — a document signed by the British and Turkish Governments on March 21, 1844 — this was one of the expected signs. This 'Edict' did indeed begin the 'Return' processes, the latter stages of which we are currently seeing unfold daily on our TV screens.

The clergy and laity alike were celebrating Christendom's success in the mission field by the joyous announcement that the Gospel had indeed been preached unto all nations in response to Christ's command.

This was a necessary condition for the 'Return'. And, there were other important indicators as well.

In consequent expectation, Lady Hestor Stanhope in England, for example, abandoned her affluent life and went to the Holy Land to meet the Christ.

The Millerites, and others in North America, were preparing themselves for His Coming by, for example, closing of their businesses, making ascension robes, and repairing to high ground to await their Lord. These and other such matters are recorded in the Congressional record of the United States.

The German Kelperites journeyed to the foot of Mount Carmel in the Holy Land, built their distinctive, still prominent houses with red-tiled roofs, to await the Lord Who would reveal Himself there, etc., etc.

These and numerous other expectations were focussed around 1843 & 1844 AD.

The 'Great Disappointment'

But, those years came and went — apparently without the expected sublime result.

It is not difficult to imagine the letdown on the part of those fervent believers who were faithful to the numerous Biblical injunctions to be expectant, to be vigilant, to personally prepare, and to radiantly join the company of the 'saints'. It would be those 'saints' who would have the bounty of recognizing Him, glorifying Him, and, in obedience, undertake to assist Him in the establishment of the 'Kingdom of God on Earth'.

Indeed, such was this feeling of letdown that the expected sublime consummation had not apparently occurred, that the entire matter is labelled — 'The Great Disappointment'.

What Was Behind This Disappointment?

Remember that the Christ would return as a 'Thief in the night', presumably meaning that He would come, do His work and leave the house before even its occupants were aware of His visit. And, remember that only with the oil of wisdom in one's lamp would any one of us be numbered among the 'wise virgins' endowed with the bounty of recognition of the beloved 'Groom'. And, there are other such cautions as well.

It was understandable, but perhaps vain, to consider that our limited human understanding of Scripture could correctly define the exact time of fulfillment, and the exact place of the consummation of the numerous expectations. After all, the Bible itself suggests that no-one knew the time, and that, indeed no-one really knew the nature of all these matters, spiritual vs literal, because they were 'sealed until the time of the end'. At that 'time' (even the term 'time' requires correct definition), the 'Lamb', and 'He Who sits upon the Throne of Glory', would, together, 'remove the seals from the books' as prominently mentioned in the visions of Daniel and the Book of Revelation of St. John the Divine.

So, evidently, placing the numerous indicators of the 'Return' and the 'time of the end' in a proper perspective was the sole prerogative of those two promised Figures, the 'Lamb' and 'He Who sits upon the Throne of Glory'.

What Really Happened?

The various indicators were correct, and the 'Return', and the accompanying events, did occur! You were right! The beginning of the unfolding of the Kingdom of God on Earth did occur in 1844.

It began with the public Declaration, in 1844, of the promised 'Elijah Who must first come before the great and dreadful Day of the Lord', He Who was the 'Lamb that was slain' mentioned in Revelation, and Who was also the 'second Woe' promised in that same Book.

Further, the Lamb was to be followed quickly by the 'third Woe', the Promised Christ, the Lord of Lords, the King of Kings, seated upon the Throne of Glory. This glorious Figure is described as having the 'Book' in His right hand. That Book is the promised 'City of God', the 'New Jerusalem', the Revelation that was to 'descend from heaven' to give substance to the Kingdom of God on Earth throughout the Millennium and characterized by the Unity of Humankind and Universal Peace!

This magnificent epic becomes the renewed 'greatest story ever told'.

It is challenging, it is sublime, it is the means of salvation. Every heart has need to hear this story.

An Invitation

There are individuals who are aware of the keys to these mysteries provided by the 'Lamb' and 'He Who sits upon the Throne of Glory'. They live nearby, and they cordially invite you to patiently seek what lay under the 'seals' by contacting:

The Ruth Moffett Bahá'í Institute,

15 Courtney Road,

Kanata, Ontario

K2L 1L9

Speakers are prepared to address groups of interested believers, and materials are available to answer the questions of those who prepare and seek in obedience to the injunctions of Jesus. If you accept these invitations, you will encounter challenges, surprises, and inspirations, and an invitation to participate in building the Kingdom.

The 'Return' of Christ

by *Don Dainty*

I - The 'Return' Of Christ

The Expectation Of The 'Return'

In the glorious words of the King James Version of the Bible, we read:

“Ye have heard how I said unto you, I go away, and come again unto you. If ye loved me, ye would rejoice, because I said I go unto the Father; for my Father is greater than I. And now I have told you before it come to pass, that, when it come to pass ye might believe...”

(John 14:28-29)

In numerous citations in the Writings in the Bible, both the Jews and the Christians have been counselled to anticipate with pure hearts the Coming of the Father and Return of Christ to accomplish the fulfillment of all the promises by ‘making all things new’ (Revelation 21:3-6).

Among such parallel thoughts are:

(1) Jesus was able to reveal the many truths left unspoken, but did not do so because the people of His time were not yet ready for them. However, ‘all truth’ is to be revealed by the promised return of the Spirit of Truth at the time of the end.

(John 16:12&13)

(2) In Christ’s time, as children, we saw as in a glass darkly, but at the time of the return, we will see as if face to face with the Lord.

(I Corinthians 13:9-12)

(3) “Therefore judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the counsels of the hearts: and then shall every man have praise of God.”

(I Corinthians 4:5)

(4) The meaning of the Revelations of the past and the expectations in both the Torah and the New Testament, are sealed until the time of the end (Daniel 12:4-9 and Revelation 5:5-9). Fortunately, these seals are to be removed at the time of the end, by the 'Lamb that was slain' and 'He Who sits upon the throne of Glory'. They, and only they, evidently have the power to perform this miracle.

(5) There are seven New Testament references which characterize the coming of the Lord in terms of a 'thief in the night' (I Thessalonians 5:1-6, II Peter 3:10 and Matthew 24:43-44). Therefore, the Lord will come to this world, will perform the miracle of revealing His Will for humanity for the Millennium, and then He will repair to the heavenly realm having completed His Mission before the 'good man of the house should become aware'.

Preparing For The 'Return'

There are several expressions in the New Testament where believers are enjoined to prepare for the Second Advent. There is the Parable of the Ten Virgins in Matthew 25 (verses 1-13), for example, in which all ten were anticipating the Return of Christ (the bridegroom). Five were foolish but five were wise. The wise had filled their lamps with the oil of wisdom to illuminate their way to the Groom. They married the groom, that is they recognized and followed Him. Those without oil in their lamps, were unprepared and failed to find their way to their Lord. The Message is, evidently, that it is necessary to prepare sincerely to recognize the Lord on His Return.

In addition, there are stated difficulties associated with recognition of the 'return'. To begin with it is stated that the time of the return is not known before the fact (Luke 19:44, Mark 13:33 and Matthew 24:36-42), so that one must watch carefully for the signs. However, there are in fact numerous time indications. These, how-

ever, are 'sealed', and require the explanations of 'He Who sits upon the throne of Glory' to explain and confirm them.

A further complication is that the Name of the Returned Christ is not known (Revelation 2:17 and Revelation 3:12), even though there are many references to His titles. Included among these characterizing titles are:

- the Rod from Jesse (Isaiah 11:1)
- the Judge among the nations (Isaiah 2:4)
- the Lord of Hosts (Psalms 24:10)
- the Comforter (John 16:7)
- the Spirit of Truth (John 16:13)
- the Son of man (Matthew 25:31)
- Alpha and Omega (Revelation 22:13)
- third woe to come quickly (Revelation 11:14)
- He who sits on the throne (Revelation 5:13)
- the last trump (1 Corinthians 15:52)
- the trump of God (1 Thessalonians 4:16)
- the Wonderful (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- Counsellor (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- Prince of peace (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- Everlasting Father (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- the mighty God (Isaiah 9:6-7)
- the glory of the Lord (Isaiah 40:5)
- the glory of God (Revelation 15:8)

Finally, while there are many references regarding the place of His coming again, these must await a further session.

The Universality Of The 'Return'

There are statements in the Torah and the New Testament that indicate that this glorious Return of the Spirit will also encompass the fulfillment of the other major streams of religious belief on this planet.

For example:

“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.” (John 10:16)

And there are numerous statements in these same Scriptures which indicate the supreme spiritual sovereignty of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords over all the kings and rulers of the earth. They all shall ultimately worship and adore Him. For example:

(1) God shall break the kings, and give His Messenger the earth for His possession to rule from Zion; therefore ye kings be wise, and fear the Lord and His Judgement.

(Psalm 2:1-12)

(2) The kings of the earth shall fear the Glory of the Lord when He appears to build up Zion and gather all the people together.

(Psalm 102:12-22)

(3) “... All the kings of the earth shall praise thee, O Lord, when they hear the words of thy mouth. Yea, they shall sing in the ways of the Lord: for great is the glory of the Lord...”

(Psalm 138:4-5)

(4) Christ (Angel six) promises to come as a thief from Iraq to cause the kings and the world, to gather for the last spiritual, and perhaps literal, battle.

(Revelation 16:12-16)

It should not be surprising then, that such foresights of universality found in the Judaeo-Christian tradition, parallel similar 'return' traditions of other Faiths currently in the world. Of the Revela-

tions of which there is still record, mention is made, not only of the next Messenger in a particular line, but also of the ultimate manifestation of a Promised One, Whose universally glorious task it is to achieve the universal consummation. For example, witness the following:

Religion	Messenger	Promised One
1) Hinduism	Lord Krishna	10th Avatar, 'Most Great Spirit'
2) Judaism	Moses	the Messiah, the return of Elijah
3) Zoroastrianism	Zoroaster	Shah Bahram, the 'World Saviour'
4) Buddhism	Buddha, the 1st Buddha	The Maitreye Buddha of Universal fellow- ship, the 5th Buddha
5) Christianity	Christ, Messiah	2nd return of Elijah Christ Returned, the 'slain Lamb', 'He seated on the throne, the three 'Woes', etc.
6) Islam	Muhammad, First Woe	Christ Returned, the 'Promised One'
7) Babi Faith	the Báb, Second Woe, 2nd return of Elijah the 'slain lamb'	Him Whom God will make manifest, Bahá'u'lláh

8) Bahá'í Faith	Bahá'u'lláh,	He Who is to be manifested
	Third Woe, 5th Buddha, etc.	after the passage of a millennium

Thus, the Revelators sent to the Sheep of the 'other folds', have universally pointed to the vision of universal fulfillment by a glorious Figure imparting God's Divine Plan and involving all God's children.

Matters Of The 'Return'

Furthermore, as part of the Divine Plan, this 'Return' envisions:

1) The Kingdom on Earth:

"Thy Kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth as it is in heaven."

(Matthew 6:10)

2) Tribulation:

"For then shall be great tribulation, such as was not from the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be."

(Matthew 24:21)

3) The New Revelation:

"And I saw a new heaven and a new earth... And I John saw the holy city, new Jerusalem coming down from God out of heaven... And I heard a great voice out of heaven saying, Behold, the tabernacle of God is with men, and he will dwell with them, and they shall be His people, and God himself shall be with them, and be their God."

(Revelation 21:1-3)

4) The Judgement:

“And Jesus said, For judgement am I come into this world, that they that see not might see...” (John 9:39);
“And I saw another angel fly in the midst of heaven, having the everlasting gospel to preach unto them that dwell on earth, and to every nation... Saying with a loud voice, Fear God, and give glory to him; for the hour of his judgement is come...”

(Revelation 14:6-7)

5) Spiritual Resurrection and Salvation:

Faithful, holy souls at His return and during the Millennium are spiritually resurrected so as to live and reign with Him (in heaven) for the 1,000 years, They attain salvation and experience the first resurrection. Those not spiritually responsive to His Return are not so resurrected.

(Revelation 20:4-6)

6) World Unity:

“And other sheep I have which are not of this fold; them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold and one shepherd.”

(John 10:16)

7) World Peace:

“... and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of peace... Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end...”

(Isaiah 9:6-7)

Bahá'u'lláh Is The ‘Return Of This Spirit’

And further We have said: “He Who is the Father is come, and the Son (Jesus Christ), in the holy vale, crieth out: ‘Here am I, here am I, O Lord, my God!’,”

whilst Sinai circleth round the House, and the Burning Bush calleth aloud: 'The All-Bounteous is come mounted upon the clouds! Blessed is he that draweth nigh unto Him, and woe betide them that are far away.'"

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Epistle to the Son of the Wolf*, p. 57)

Bahá'u'lláh's Teachings:

1) Testifying to Christ

"Know thou that when the Son of Man yielded up His breath to God, the whole creation wept with a great weeping. By sacrificing Himself, however, a fresh capacity was infused into all created things. Its evidences, as witnessed in all the peoples of the earth, are now manifest before thee. The deepest wisdom which the sages have uttered, the profoundest learning which any mind hath unfolded, the arts which the ablest hands have produced, the influence exerted by the most potent of rulers, are but manifestations of the quickening power released by His transcendent, His all-pervasive, and resplendent Spirit... He it is Who purified the world. Blessed is the man who, with a face beaming with light, hath turned towards Him..."

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, pp. 85-86)

2) The Return of the Spirit

"The Word which the Son concealed is made manifest. It hath been sent down in the form of the human temple in this day. Blessed be the Lord Who is the Father! He, verily, is come unto the nations in His most great majesty. Turn your faces towards Him, O concourse of the righteous... This is the day whereon the Rock (Peter) crieth out and shouteth, and celebrateth the praise of its Lord, the All-Possessing,

the Most High, saying: 'Lo! The Father is come, and that which ye were promised in the Kingdom is fulfilled!...'”

(Proclamation of Bahá'u'lláh, pp. 84-85)

3) The Universality of Expectation and the Purpose of the Return

“The Revelation which, from time immemorial, hath been acclaimed as the Purpose and Promise of all of the Prophets of God, and the most cherished desire of His Messengers, hath now, by virtue of the pervasive Will of the Almighty and at His irresistible bidding, been revealed unto men. The advent of such a Revelation hath been heralded in all the sacred Scriptures.”

(Bahá'u'lláh, *Gleanings from the Writings of Bahá'u'lláh*, p. 5-6)

Conclusion

Thus it is that Bahá'u'lláh is the 'Thief in the Night', the promised 'Return of the Spirit', and that Everlasting Father Who is destined to fulfil the promise of salvation for the individual, of unity for the human world and the dream of peace on this earth.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Books mentioned are available in most public libraries.

Local **Telephone** listings are often in your phone book under "*Bahá'í Faith*".

In Canada **Vision TV** broadcasts *Bahá'í Perspective* the first Wednesday and Thursday of each month (check local listings).

Please feel free to contact any one of the following:

Bahá'í World Centre Web Site:

www.bahai.org

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7200 Leslie Street,
Thornhill, Ontario L3T 6L8

National Spiritual Assembly of the Bahá'ís of the United States

415 Linden Avenue
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Bahá'í Information Line in Canada 1-800-433-3284 for recorded messages about the Bahá'í Faith, its teachings and perspectives on social issues, in English and French.

Bahá'í information is also available in many world languages.

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